MAKING CLIMATE FINANCE WORK FOR AFRICA

Using NDCs to Leverage Climate Finance for Innovation System Building

Introduction

Climate change finance mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) were previously designed in ways that would only benefit large developing countries like China and India that have enhanced technological capacity and capabilities, providing attractive environments for state and non-state actors seeking to leverage climate finance to support their international investments. Africa in its entirety, including South Africa and North African countries, has received only 3% of accumulated international investment under the CDM. Noting the potential and opportunities to unlock trillions of dollars new and additional climate funding, via the framework of the new global Paris Climate Agreement adopted in Marrakech last year, African policy makers are presented with an ample opportunity to effect change. Utilizing nationally devolved, more bottom-up structure espoused by the Paris Climate Agreement and acting as a coordinated block of countries, East African nations could coordinate implementation of their Nationally Designated Commitments (NDCs) in ways that leverage funding to build new innovation systems around low-carbon energy technologies. Research has demonstrated this will underpin long term economic growth and poverty alleviation, but only if pursued via a policy approach firmly rooted in supporting East African countries in defining their own, context-specific needs, upon which climate finance will then be leveraged to support.

In this regard, the training event seeks to; provide climate policy makers in East Africa with the knowledge and capabilities necessary to leverage climate finance via their NDCs and use this to build innovation systems, significantly increasing flows of climate technologies to East Africa.

Main Benefits

Upon completion of this workshop and accessing the follow-on support, the participants will be equipped to:-

1. Implement their country’s NDC (or INDC) in ways that will leverage maximum international climate finance to build innovation systems around new and existing climate technologies. By the end of the event, the participants will have identified priority actions for immediate implementation after the workshop.

2. Understand the value of and how to implement, “Climate Relevant Innovation-system Builders” (CRIBs) as the key mechanism through which the NDCs are to be implemented. CRIBs are proposed networks of institutions based in low and middle income countries facilitating activities that build and strengthen innovation systems around locally appropriate low-carbon technologies. They mirror best practices in other nations that have been successful in harnessing science and technology to deliver significant economic development.

3. Access follow-on resources via a dedicated web page.

4. Access monthly expert support for 12 months following the training event from climate policy experts at ACTS and the University of Sussex, who will assist in the design and implementation under the NDCs.

5. Provide a platform for knowledge and experience sharing with other East African policy makers, learning from best practice and taking advantage of regional learning and implementation opportunities.

Main Aim

The intended outcome of the workshop is:

“Participants return home with concrete plans for implementing CRIBs to leverage international finance and deliver against their NDCs”

Point of note

This high value workshop is being made available to this community of East African Policy makers and practitioners without charge. All travel, accommodation and subsistence costs will also be met.